THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) During the current financial year 2001-02 (upto September, 2001), the average natural gas utilisation in the country is of the order of 76.20 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD), which includes around 10.20 MMSCMD utilised for internal consumption by the gas producing companies.

(b) Presently, around 3.52 MMSCMD of natural gas is being processed for production of Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the LPG processing plants at Duliyajan & Lakwa in Assam, Vijaipur in M.P., Usar in Maharashtra, Auraiya in U.P. and Vaghodia & Gandhar in Gujarat. In view of the existing commitments for supply of natural gas to consumers, there are no plans to increase its processing for LPG production.

(c) An allocation of the order of 118.67 MMSCMD of natural gas has been allocated to consumers in various sectors for utilisation in the country. However, the present availability of natural gas is around 65 MMSCMD only.

Production of small size gas cylinders

255. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce small size cooking gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof togetherwith the cost and gas weight of the cylinder; and

(c) whether Government have also agreed to reduce the cost of gas cylinders already in use, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government have given 'in-principle' approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies to market 5 kg. LPG cylinders for domestic purpose. The cost of the 5 kg. cylinder (domestic) has not been finalised so far.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.